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Topic: Other

Subject: Frequently Asked Questions - Chafee Education and Training Vouchers

Applies to (check all that apply):

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Oregon Tribes and other community partners serving current and former foster youth ages 14 to 20. |

Message: Following are frequently asked questions regarding the Chafee Education and Training (ET) Scholarship application process (also know as the Chafee ETV Program).

Question: What is the Chafee Education and Training (ET) Scholarship?

Answer: The Chafee ET Scholarship is a federally funded program that allows eligible youth to receive up to \$5,000.00 per academic year to help with the cost of attendance for postsecondary education or vocational training. The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) processes all applications and determines the amount of awards.

Question: Who is eligible to receive the Chafee ET Scholarship?

Answer: Youth who are currently in foster care with the Department of Human Services (DHS) child welfare or one of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon; or former foster youth who were in foster care with DHS or one of the Oregon Tribes for at least 180 days after their 14th birthday.

Question: Who determines eligibility?

Answer: OSAC and the DHS Independent Living Program (ILP) share the responsibility for determining eligibility. OSAC determines if a youth has submitted all necessary paperwork (including applying for the FAFSA), and the ILP determines if a youth meets the foster care criteria.

Question: Does time spent in Oregon Youth Authority foster care qualify?

Answer: No. The Chafee grant is intended to serve those youth expected to age out of the child welfare foster care system. Therefore, only DHS and Tribal foster care will be used to determine eligibility.

Question: What happens if I miss a deadline? Am I out of luck until next year?

Answer: The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) prefers that youth apply by the March 1st deadline if possible. However, additional quarterly application periods are available. If the school year for a particular school begins with Summer Term, any youth who missed the March 1st deadline, could apply by May 3. Or, if the school year begins with Fall Term (Sept.) then the youth could submit an application by August 10. A youth can apply for the Chafee Education and Training Scholarship during whichever term they decide to go to school (Winter – November 11; Spring – February 9, Summer - May 3, Fall – August 10, preferred annual deadline – March 1).

Question: Why should a youth submit an application in March if they can apply later in the year?

Answer: OSAC offers several other scholarships and grants that youth may qualify for during their March 1st application period. After March 1st, OSAC will only accept applications for the Chafee ET Scholarship. Also, OSAC hires additional staff to handle the large influx of applications in March, as this is their normal application season. The Chafee ET Scholarship is the only OSAC program that has a quarterly application process.

Question: If a youth did not make the March deadline, should they still submit their FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) now?

Answer: YES, the youth should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. Federal financial aid is distributed on a first-come first-serve basis. The later in the year the FAFSA is submitted, the less the youth is likely to receive in federal financial aid.

Question: Where can I obtain a Chafee Education and Training Scholarship application?

Answer: Applications can be downloaded at www.osac.state.or.us/ChafeeEtv.html. The Oregon Student Assistance Commission also sends out an application booklet every December to all school financial aid offices and local high schools.

Question: What does the Chafee ET Scholarship application packet include?

Answer: Youth must submit six documents: 1) two page scholarship application, 2) activities chart, 3) essay #1, 4) essay #2, 5) copy of their most current transcripts, and 6) Chafee supplemental page. If any one of the above documents is missing, the youth's application will not be processed.

Question: Must a youth's postsecondary education or training program be full-time?

Answer: No, youth may participate in postsecondary programs on a part-time basis. However, scholarship awards are based on need. A youth's award may be less if not participating full-time.

Question: Does the youth have to apply each term for the ETV scholarship?

Answer: NO, only one application is required per school year. Once a youth submits an application and is awarded a Chafee ET Scholarship, that award is to cover the full or remaining school year.

Question: Do all applications go mailed to the same address?

Answer: NO, only the March 1st applications are to be mailed directly to OSAC in Eugene. All other

applications must be mailed to the ILP Desk, 500 Summer Street NE, E76, Salem, OR 97301-1069).

Question: Must the application be received by the deadline, or simply post marked by the deadline?

Answer: All application packets must be either post marked by the deadline or hand delivered to the appropriate office on the due date.

Question: Can a youth be participating in housing services through the Independent Living Program (Subsidy or Chafee) and receive a Chafee ET Scholarship at the same time?

Answer: Yes. However, the youth will need to include the total amount of financial aid received (federal, private, loans, etc.) on their Chafee Housing budget, in addition to any other income. This may require that a revised budget be submitted. The youth is only allowed to receive Chafee ET funds in an amount equal to or less than the cost of attendance.

Question: Must a youth currently be involved with DHS in order to qualify for the Chafee ET Scholarship?

Answer: No. Youth do not have to be involved with DHS in any way as long as the youth meets the eligibility criteria for the scholarship. However, if awarded a Chafee ET Scholarship, DHS will assign the youth a number for tracking and reporting purposes.

Question: Does it matter how old you are when you apply, or how many years it has been since you were in care?

Answer: Yes. Youth must apply for the Chafee ET Scholarship prior to their 21st birthday. If a youth has not applied by the age of 21, they lose their eligibility. As long as a youth applies by the age of 21, when they were discharged from care only matters in determining eligibility (180 days of foster care after age 14).

Question: How long can a youth receive funding through the Chafee ET Scholarship?

Answer: If a youth is receiving Chafee ETV funding on their 21st birthday, they can continue to receive assistance up to age 23. Continued funding will depend on the availability of federal funds and the youth must continue to meet the minimum grade or participation standards at the institution of attendance.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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